



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

April 26, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Easter

**Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

www.fpcweb.org

(732) 491-2300

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.

PRELUDE Improvisation

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is in God,

All: Creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful.

Leader: The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship together.

*HYMN 31 Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

MONKLAND

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

Merciful God, you know how we love miracles.

We love your healing, life-giving presence.

We confess that poverty and oppression are less appealing topics.

Yet, we find you among the poor, the downtrodden, the widow, the orphan.

In their midst we find you, your prophets, and your miracles.

Dwell with us, as we make the struggles of the oppressed our own struggles.

Join us at your table, as we join the effort to feed and clothe those who live in want.

Grant us your compassion, we pray, that we may truly be your people. Amen.

*KYRIE

Lord, _____ have__ mer - - - cy up - on us.

Christ, _____ have__ merc - - - cy up - on us.

Lord, _____ have mer - - - cy up - on us.

Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

*** GLORIA**

Glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James Kealey

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Regan

Nursery care up to age 2 is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 5th grade will exit to the GLOW Room.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 146 (Old Testament page 581)

Kevin Trolaro

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Joy In the Morning

Senior Choir

Natalie Sleeth

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 8:3-8 (Old Testament page 449)

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Courage to Stand Up"

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN 324** For All the Faithful Women

NYLAND

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (*from the Brief Statement*) – **Unison**

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Meditation on *Hymn of Promise*

arr. Brenda Portman

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus, fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

***RESPONSE HYMN 399** God Welcomes All (*sing twice*)

THEMBA AMEN

ELDERS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Unison

Brian Smith

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors;

And let us not fall into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 378** We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

MERLE'S TUNE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN 765** May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

POSTLUDE Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der den Tod überwand (BWV 626)

J.S. Bach

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with love from her family to Susan Kozo
as she celebrates her birthday,
and from Gail Stein in loving memory of her husband Howard for his birthday, April 24.*

*Our greeter this morning is Brian Smith, and the ushers are Maggy Cook,
Paul Gunsser, and Reynolds Shaw.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God,
O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 8:3-8

Then Esther spoke again to the king; she fell at his feet, weeping and pleading with him to avert the evil design of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. The king held out the golden scepter to Esther, and Esther rose and stood before the king. She said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have won his favor, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I have his approval, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote giving orders to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming on my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?" Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hung him on the pole because he plotted to kill^[a] the Jews. You may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind 31

(Psalm 136)

1 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the
 2 God, with all - com - mand - ing might, filled the
 3 All things liv - ing God does feed; with full
 4 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the


Lord who is so kind:
 new - made world with light: for God's mer - cies
 mea - sure, meets their need:
 Lord who is so kind:

shall en - dure, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

These few stanzas are among the least florid of the two dozen that make up the rather flamboyant paraphrase of Psalm 136 written by the fifteen-year-old who would become one of the greatest English poets. It is set here to a sprightly tune with Moravian connections.


324 For All the Faithful Women

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C)
 Eb Cm7 Ab Bb Eb



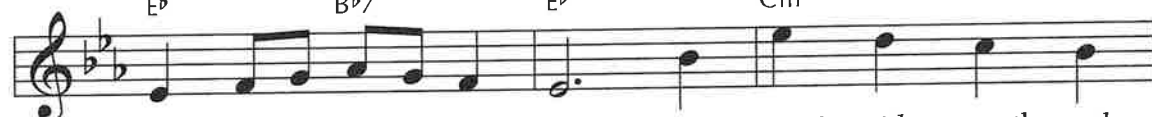
1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in
 2 We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri -
 3 We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with
 4 Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the

(G) (C) (Am7) (Dm) (G)
 Bb Eb Cm7 Fm Bb




days of old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to
 um - phant - ly while Pha - raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay
 pot and pan while Mar - y sat in si - lence to
 sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her

(C) (G7) (C) (Am)
 Eb Bb7 Eb Cm




all, their sto - ry told. They served with strength and
 drowned be - neath the sea; for Ruth, who left her
 hear the word a - gain. We praise the oth - er
 heart an o - pen door. O God, for saints and

(D) (G) (F) (G) (C)
 F Bb Ab Bb Eb



glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To you their
 home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who pledged to
 Mar - y, who has - tened to the tomb and found her
 ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that, faith - ful

(Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 Cm7 Ab Bb Eb Fm Bb Eb



lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
 serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
 Lord a - ris - en, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
 in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Created to honor the tenth anniversary of the first ordination of a woman in the Lutheran Church in America, this text celebrates representative women of the Bible: Miriam and Ruth from Hebrew Scripture, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene from the gospels, and Dorcas from Acts.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765
 Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
 ¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

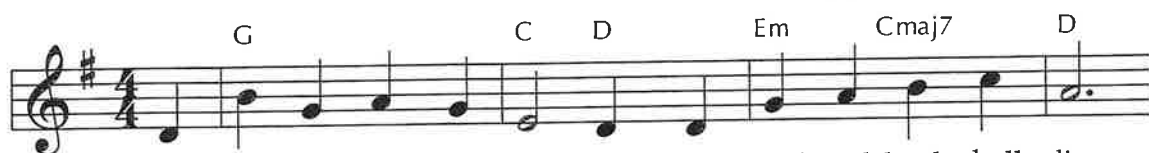
lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
 cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
 nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
 O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
 Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom 378



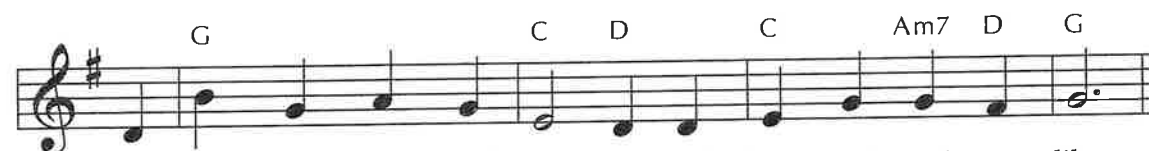
1 We wait the peace-ful king-dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
 2 Where is the peace-ful king-dom? When will this new day start?
 3 When wars of des-o-la-tion and hate come to an end,
 4 That lit-tle child shall lead us to walk the cho-sen way,



in gen-tle-ness and friend-ship with-out a fear or sigh,
 We long for peace and com-fort to reign with-in each heart.
 when na-tion meets with na-tion and calls the oth-er "friend,"
 to share the peace-ful king-dom, to greet God's new-born day.



when li-on shall be graz-ing, when snake shall nev-er strike;
 Yet not in our lives on-ly, nor sim-ply in our home:
 still peace in all its full-ness will on-ly have be-gun:
 The child born in a sta-ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit-tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a-like.
 we pray that all cre-a-tion will one day find sha-lom.
sha-lom for all cre-a-tion be-gins with jus-tice done.
 to bring through word and ta-ble the day when jus-tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6-9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Kathleen R. Moore, 2010
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983
 Text © 2010 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
 Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE
 7.6.7.6.D

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
*Lynne Anglely
John Bertelsen and family (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
*Fred Bergholz
Linda Burr (*June Young's sister*)
Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)
Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)
Luis Canton (*Laurie Toth's father*)
Sophie Culton (*friend of the Reed family*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
Darla Dimatteo
George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
*Judy Fuller
Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)
*Marie Gale
*Doris Gulotta
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
*Noah Haulenbeek
Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)
*Abby Kozo

*Susan Kozo
*Patricia Lagay
Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Joseph Neupauer (*Marie Hoffsommer's brother*)
Alvin Newton (*Virginia Shaw's brother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Lisa Qualben (*friend of Nancy Leardi*)
Diane Riddle
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Cara Moskal Scacco (*niece of June Young*)
Johanne Servil (*friend of Margo Gunsser*)
*Lorraine Sheaffer
*Deb Sorensen
Katie Strittmatter (*friend of Kozo-Mollison family*)
Art Wegg
Bud Wilson (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

PASTORAL CARE:

If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Rev. Khayla J. Henry at (843) 312-7288. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Jeremy B. – US Air Force, Currently deployed (*Son of Andrene Pennix's co-worker*)
David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Philadelphia, PA (*Son of Fred & Kathy Garry*)
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*Son of Elaine Hansen*)
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Lawrence, KS (*Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law*)
Lt. Col. Matthew McQueeney, USAF, Pilot and D.O., deployed (*Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)
Mark Robinson, 82nd Airborne Division, deployed (*son of Steve and Moggie Davis's friend*)
*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (*Brother/Son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (*Granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr*)
Petty Officer 1st Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.

After Worship Refreshments – Deacons Room . . .10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, APRIL 27

DBSA Support Group – Deacons Room7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

CARE Team – Office Conference Rm 3:00 p.m.

Carol Choir – Choir Room4:00 p.m.

Support Group – Deacons Room 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Lunch and Games – Dining Room Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group – Room 2017:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 -10:15 a.m.

Junior Choir – Choir Room 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Joy Ringers – Bell Loft 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Women’s AA Support Grp – Deacons Rm. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

<https://bit.ly/4emWby6>



CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Associate Pastor Rev. Khayla J. Henry

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert A. Beringer

Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas

COMING SOON

- May 3 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
- May 4 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge/Zoom – 6:00 pm
- May 5 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
- May 9 Music Gala – Social Center – 6:00 pm
- May 10 Lego Sunday
- May 12 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge - 11:00 am
- May 12 Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm
- May 13 Men’s Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
- May 13 Pastoral Bible Study resumes
- May 14 Local Mission – Auditorium – 11:45 am
- May 14 Mission Commission – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
- May 16 Social Justice Movie Night – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received April 19

Pledge	\$ 9,921
Non-pledge	\$ 1,035
Per Capita	\$ 142
Cash	\$ 201
Other funds	\$ 121

TOTAL: \$11,420

OTHER RECEIPTS \$200

(Parking)

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

Direct Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!

Online From our website fpcweb.org/give, click on the **Give Online** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.

Thank you for your generous support!

Indonesian Pastoral Supply Rev. Leksmana Leonard

Director of Music Ministries Jordan Klotz

Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Arnold Day

Director for Christian Education Nancy Leardi

**CINCO
DE
MAYO**



FREE

COMMUNITY DINNER

**Sunday, May 3, 5:00 p.m.
Social Center Dining Room**

Join us in community and fellowship as we feast on tacos for Cinco de Mayo - a choice of beef or chicken, and toppings such as corn salad, rice and beans, and Mexican brownies and ice cream for dessert.



We have a place at the table for you.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



FPC METUCHEN

**CHOIR
& MUSIC
CAMP**

August 10-14, 2026

Give your child a week of exceptional, and joyful music-making program this summer. Choose from:
Young Voices Track **Entering Grades 1 – 3**
9:00 am – 1:00 pm \$75/child, includes snacks
After Care 1:00 – 3:00 pm \$75/child (on request)

Choir and Bells Track **Entering Grades 4 – 10**
9:00 am – 3:00 pm (Mon. – Thurs.), 1:00 pm (Fri.)
\$150/child, includes lunch and snacks

Register by May 15 to enjoy a \$25 early-bird discount. Families registering more than one child also receive a discount.

A faculty of music professionals, teachers, and dedicated volunteers will lead the camp. Pick up a brochure to learn more of what this camp has to offer.

Registration is open – simply scan this QR code to register.



Catch the bug this summer!

2026 Vacation Bible Camp



JUNE 29 to July 3, 2026

9:00 to 11:45 am

For children K to 6th Grade (by Fall 2026)

Summer will soon be here, and so will our VBC! Registration is now ongoing. Scan the QR code to sign up your kids!



JOIN US!

*Music
Ministry
Gala*

Saturday, May 9, 6:00 PM | Tickets: \$50
First Presbyterian Church Social Center

Live music, wine, hors d'oeuvres, plus a silent auction & 50/50 raffle!



The Gala promises to be a very special evening with music, cocktails, and exciting prizes for the silent auction and 50/50 raffle that will support our Music Ministry.

Tickets will be available for sale after worship. Look for any choir member or see our Director for Music Ministries Jordan Klotz.



MOTHER'S DAY CAR WASH



May 9th, Saturday

9:00 am to Noon, Church Parking Lot

Join us this Mother's Day weekend for a special Car Wash Fundraiser to support our Habitat for Humanity youth trip! Give our youth a chance to add sparkle to your cars as they wash cars while raising funds to help us serve communities in need.

Bring your car, invite your friends, and celebrate Mom by giving back to a great cause. Donations are appreciated, and every contribution helps us get one step closer to building homes and hope.

Thank you for your support!



Dear Congregant,

The All Church Nominating Committee (ACNC) is actively searching for church members ready to dedicate their time and talents to serve as Deacons or Elders. We ask that you prayerfully consider the opportunity to join in the important work done by these two boards.

The "Session" of Elders is a group that represents the congregation in guiding the life of the church. Elders are assigned to Commissions, which are standing teams that oversee particular parts of our church's life and ministries. The current set of Commissions includes Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Personnel, Worship and Music, Mission and Outreach, Christian Ed, and Youth. Like any other important work of our church, working as an Elder requires a commitment of your time and talent: Session meets monthly, as do most of the individual Commissions to which an Elder may be assigned. Working as an Elder can be a very exciting, challenging, and fulfilling way to serve our beloved church.

The Board of Deacons carries out many ministries of support, caring, and outreach. The word "Deacon" comes from a Greek word that refers to an attendant, or one who ministers to another. Our deacons administer everything from Advent Angels to our Community Dinners. Other Deacon ministries include flower delivery, serving communion, ushering, prayer shawls, Helping Hands, our Soup ministry, and many others. Deacons meet once a month and members work on the particular ministries that call to them. All that's required to be a faithful Deacon is willingness to commit a few hours a month to participate in the wonderful work they do.

Please take a moment to consider how you might bring your time and talents to serving in one of these roles. For more information, please feel free to contact any member of the ACNC:

Carol Carr
chc9@hotmail.com

Pete Bellisano
pbellisano@gmail.com

Allison Brennan
allison.l.murray@gmail.com

Betty Kopetz
bkopetz@verizon.net

June Young
june18@optonline.net

Thank you and may God guide you as you consider how your gifts and talents may best be used for His glory.